United Nations A/64/505

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 October 2009
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 27 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to submit the Argentine Republic's reply to the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations referring to the address delivered on 23 September 2009 by the President of the Argentine Republic, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

On 28 September 2009, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made on 23 September 2009 by the President of the Argentine Republic, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, at the sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, requested the circulation of a letter (A/64/481) and its annex.

The Government of the Argentine Republic hereby categorically rejects the unfounded and injurious accusations levelled in the above-mentioned Iranian letter against the President of the Argentine Republic and the Argentine executive and judicial authorities.

In recent years, Argentina has been the victim of two serious terrorist attacks that took a tragic toll of dozens of dead and wounded: in 1992, against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, and in 1994, against the headquarters of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA).

One of the paragraphs of the Iranian letter refers to and interprets our feelings about these painful events. Indeed, the AMIA bombing is an open wound in Argentine society, and the deep sorrow it has caused can be mitigated only by punishing those responsible for the attack.

Therefore, at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, President Fernández de Kirchner reiterated the request made by Argentina at the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of the Assembly that the Islamic Republic of Iran agree to extradite officials of its country who are wanted by the Argentine justice system for their alleged connection with the AMIA bombing, so that

09-58246 (E) 021109 031109

Please recycle

they can be judged, while being protected by all the rights and guarantees enjoyed by Argentine and foreign nationals in our country. It is important to note that one of these officials has been promoted to a ministerial post.

The Argentine Republic has repeatedly urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to accept and respect, under the applicable provisions of international law, the jurisdiction of the Argentine justice system and effectively cooperate in bringing to justice the persons accused in connection with the AMIA bombing by acceding to the Argentine Republic's request that arrest warrants be issued for them, a request endorsed by the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in November 2007.

This action will represent an invaluable contribution to justice and full respect for human rights and dignity.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have this letter of reply circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative